Training 17 new battalions В. Thai Nguyen believed for purpose filling out battle corps.

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Ε. Recent Chinese aid included six rocket launchers, number recoilless rifles, 3,300 rounds 105mm artillery ammo.

NSA, DIA reviews completed

NSC BRIEFING

DELTA MILITARY SITUATION

- I. Rapid return Viet Minh battle corps poses early threat delta.
 - A. Five divisions Dien Bien Phu expected around delta this week.
 - B. Div 312, 351 (Artillery) at
 Tuyen Quang; Div 308 at Phu
 Tho; Div 316 at Cam Thuy;
 Div 304 at Thanh Hoa.
 - C. Could be ready for action15 June.
- II. Indications possible enemy intent.
 - A. Rapidity return Dien Bien

 Phu, could mean plan for early

 offensive.

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III. Cogny

major attack

15-20 June "almost certain."

A. He pessimistic re Hanoi;
fears enemy will concentrate Hanoi-Haiphong and
he prevent permanent break.

B. If break occurs, he doesnot "intend to have anotherDien Bien Phu;" will with-draw to Haiphong.

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Approved For Release 2003/08/26: CIA-RDP80R01443R000200310001-6 1. Hanoi dependent daily coal supplies for electricity and water purification; already reported low in rice supplies due Viet 25X1 Minh harassment. IV. General impression is that delta, except Haiphong bridgehead, can't last 30 days under heavy attack. 25X1 **V** . full attack would not bring disintegration French regular forces, 25X1 though morale poor. VI. piecemeal employment enemy battle corps in delta, rather than full-scale attack.

- E. French also plan concentrate mobile strength in north delta; southern area to be held by Vietnamese.
 - 1. Initially, mobile units will support

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Vietnamese.

F.

Governor Tri of Tonkin and key Catholic Bishop of Buichu reflect a "mounting sense of panic and a feeling that the last act is about to open."

VIII. Laos, to be stripped of 10 to 13

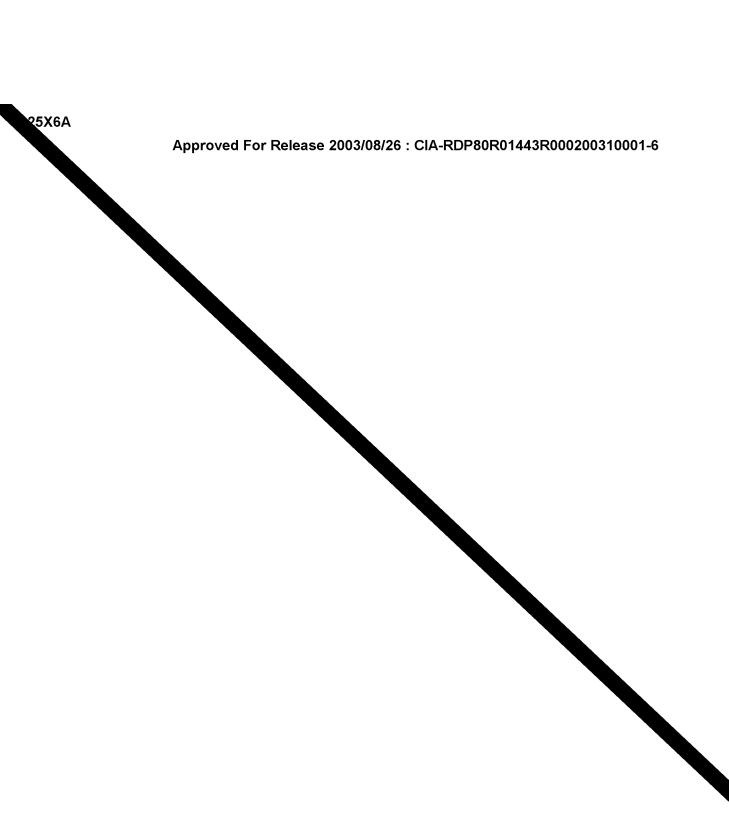
battalions for reinforcing delta,
faces possible rapid deterioration
of security situation.

- A. Enemy could avoid head-on collision heavier armed French forces and exposure air attack.
- VII. French planning build-up, reorganization delta defenses; will try hold delta.

total delta infantry soon to be 117 battalions.

- B. Plan is quick increase mobile forces by as many as 15 battalions (to total 36).
- C. 10 to 13 coming from Laos.
- D. Abandonment small, static posts will provide more mobile forces.

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- A. Viet Minh regular strength in Laos, although only 10 battalions, expected to take advantage of French exodus and increase harassment of local forces. There also 8,000 irregulars.
- B. Weak Laotian army totals 13 battalions. Also 2,500 auxiliaries.

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